

Bill Will Help Curb Government Waste, Fraud and Abuse, Pay Down the National Debt

Washington, DC – Congressman John Adler today voted for a common-sense policy to cut wasteful government spending. The Improper Payments Elimination and Recovery Act, which Congressman Adler helped pass today, will reduce waste, fraud and abuse of taxpayer dollars and require greater transparency and accountability of the way federal agencies manage their budgets.

"Washington spending is out of control," Congressman John Adler said. "During these tough times, our families are trimming their budgets. They deserve better than a government which wastes billions of taxpayer dollars. I hope that the President will quickly sign this common-sense legislation to reduce wasteful government spending and pay down the debt."

It is estimated that for FY2009, federal agencies made nearly \$98 billion in improper payments. These improper payments occur when a federal agency pays too much for a good or service, pays for something twice, or purchases the wrong product or service. The Improper Payments Elimination and Recovery Act looks to recover taxpayer dollars and crack down on the wasteful practice of improper payments in four major ways.

Provide more transparency on federal spending – The way our taxpayer dollars are spent does not receive enough scrutiny. This bill lowers reporting thresholds for federal agencies to root out improper payments.

Prevent future waste, fraud and abuse – The bill passed today helps end the practice of improper payments by requiring federal agencies to implement corrective action plans and establish improper payment reduction targets.

Recover taxpayer dollars – Under current law, federal agencies are only required to recover misspent tax dollars if they hand out more than \$500 million in contracts per year. This is unacceptable. This bill greatly reduces that threshold, and sends a large portion of improper payments back to the Treasury to pay down our debt.

Hold federal agencies accountable – This bill will require agencies to publish improper payment estimates and reduction targets for those improper payments. The Inspector General of each

agency will also be required to determine if the agency is compliant with the legislation.

Since coming to Congress, John Adler has consistently tried to reduce our deficit and cut government spending. He has voted against \$1.4 trillion in spending, opposed the wasteful Bank Bailout and sponsored legislation to ensure every nickel of the bailout goes back to the U.S. Treasury.